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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-01 /142 W
----------094253 210145Z /21
R 191151Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7835
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 07283

USEEC, PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE, EEC, ECE, SENV, ENRG, XH, CZ, GW
SUBJECT: FRG POSITION ON BREZHNEV PROPOSAL FOR AN ENERGY CONFERENCE

REFS: (A) BONN 5966; (B) BONN 4809 (NOTAL)

1. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT SPOKE OUT IN FAVOR OF BREZHNEV'S PROPOSAL FOR AN ENERGY CONFERENCE DURING HIS APRIL 10-13 MEETINGS WITH CZECH PRESIDENT HUSAK. FRG SOURCES TELL US THE CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS ARE NOT A DEPARTURE FROM THE APRIL 4 DECISION OF THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS' COUNCIL BUT AN EFFORT TO KEEP THE DOOR OPEN FOR AN EVENTUAL HLM ON ENERGY.

2. A CHANCELLERY SOURCE, WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE TIME, CONFIDENTIAL

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INFORMS US THE CHANCELLOR WAS SPECIFIC AND FORTHRIGHT IN HIS SUPPORT FOR BREZHNEV'S PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, SCHMIDT IS SAID TO HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT THE CONFERENCE MUST BE A TWO-WAY FLOW OF INFORMATION AND IT WAS CLEAR THAT HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO ACCEPT A CONFERENCE SOLELY ON BREZHNEV'S TERMS. THE CHANCELLOR REPORTEDLY BASED HIS VIEWS ON ECONOMIC NEEDS, NOTING THAT ENERGY SUPPLIES,

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PARTICULARLY OIL, COULD RUN SHORT WITHIN THE NEXT
20 YEARS AND IT WAS IMPORTANT TO HAVE MORE INFORMATION
ON THE SITUATION.

3. A FOREIGN OFFICE CONTACT INFORMS US THAT THE FRG
CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS' DECISION
OF APRIL 4 SUPPORTING THE STANOVNIK PROPOSAL FOR
CREATION OF A SENIOR ADVISORS GROUP ON ENERGY WITHIN
THE ECE. OUR CHANCELLERY SOURCE CONCURRED IN THIS
VIEW. WITHIN THIS PARAMETER, HOWEVER, THE FRG WOULD
LIKE TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR GUIDANCE TO THE SENIOR
ADVISORS THAT THEY HAVE AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON TOPICS
OF COMMON INTEREST WHICH MIGHT SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR
AN EVENTUAL HIGH-LEVEL ENERGY MEETING.

4. OUR FOREIGN OFFICE CONTACT FELT THAT THERE WOULD BE
INTENSE PRESSURE FROM THE EASTERN COUNTRIES TO MAKE A
COMMITMENT ON A HIGH-LEVEL ENERGY MEETING. SINCE SUCH
A COMMITMENT WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE AT THIS POINT, HE
FELT THE FRG PROPOSAL MIGHT REPRESENT A REASONABLE
COMPROMISE SOLUTION. HE ADDED THAT THIS HAD BEEN THE
SAME SORT OF APPROACH TAKEN LAST YEAR IN CONNECTION
WITH THE SENIOR ADVISORS ON ENVIRONMENT, EXCEPT THAT
THEIR MANDATE HAD GONE FURTHER BE REQUESTING THEM,
IN ADDITION, TO CONSIDER "CONSTRUCTIVELY" THE IDEA
OF A CONFERENCE.
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5. COMMENT: SCHMIDT, WHO REPORTEDLY HAS ALWAYS BEEN
RELATIVELY POSITIVE ABOUT THE BREZHNEV PROPOSAL, MAY
WISH TO ADOPT A MORE FORTHCOMING POSITION IN LIGHT OF
THE SOVIET LEADER'S VISIT. HIS PRESENTATION TO HUSAK,
FOR EXAMPLE, HAS UNDOUBTEDLY ALREADY BEEN TRANSMITTED
TO MOSCOW. WHILE THIS MAY MARGINALLY IMPROVE THE
ATMOSPHERICS OF THE VISIT, IT IS CLEAR THAT SCHMIDT,
IN VIEW OF THE EC'S APRIL 4 DECISION, IS NOT IN A
POSITION TO OFFER BREZHNEV MUCH IN THE SHORT TERM.
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